DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 435 932 CG 029 635

AUTHOR	Hoyle, Rick H.; Kernis, Michael H.; Leary, Mark R.; Baldwin, Mark W.
TITLE	Selfhood: Identity, Esteem, Regulation. Social Psychology Series.
ISBN	ISBN-0-8133-3109-9
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	193p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Westview Press, 5500 Central Av., Boulder, CO 80301-2877 ($59). Tel: 800-386-5656 (Toll Free).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Information Analyses (070)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Concept Formation; Egocentrism; History; *Individual Development; *Self Concept; Self Concept Measures; Self Esteem; Self Management; Social Development; *Social Psychology
IDENTIFIERS	Empirical Research; *Identity (Psychological)

ABSTRACT

Much has been written on the self during the latter half of the twentieth century, a period when citizens of the free world have embraced self-esteem and the pursuit of self-interest as fundamental entitlements. This widespread interest in the self has produced a large amount of information and misinformation. This book aims to summarize the findings from empirical research on the self, conducted in experimental social psychology. The conceptual model and research strategies described reflect the influence of the cognitive revolution in psychology which tends to view human beings as active, decision-making, information processors who shape their environments as much as they are shaped by it. The book is designed for the undergraduate or graduate student or for researchers and practitioners unfamiliar with literature on the self. It is organized in relation to three prominent themes in social-psychological research and theory on the self: identity, esteem, and regulation. Chapters include: (1) Selfhood; (2) The Self-System; (3) Identity; (4) Self-Concept; (5) Self-Esteem; (6) Self-Enhancement; (7) Other Self-Motives; and (8) Self-Regulation and Agency. (Includes 517 references, four tables and six figures.) (JDM)

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